



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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### **NATURAL GAS RATES TO CHANGE FOR AQUILA, INC. d/b/a AQUILA NETWORKS ---MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE UNDER NATURAL GAS FILING**

Jefferson City (March 13, 2003)---Southern System natural gas customers of Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-Missouri Public Service (MPS) will experience an increase in natural gas rates under a filing reviewed and accepted by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This filing primarily reflects estimated changes in the cost of natural gas from suppliers. This rate change will take effect on March 17, 2003.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.50325 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will increase to \$0.79527 per Ccf, an increase of approximately 29 cents per Ccf. **The effect on a typical residential heating customer for March through October is an average increase of approximately \$17 per month when compared to the rates currently in effect.**

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. **The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.** The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review authority to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS serves approximately 29,500 natural gas customers in its Southern System which includes the Missouri counties of Pettis, Platte, Cooper, Ray, Henry, Saline, Johnson, Vernon and Lafayette.

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